

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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## Chile

**Post:** Santiago

### Chilean Table Grape Producers Face New Challenges

**Report Categories:**

Fresh Deciduous Fruit

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**Report Highlights:**

Table grape production faced an earlier start and shorter harvesting season in the main production areas in Chile.

**General Information:**

The Vice President of Fedefruta Mr. Carolus Brown, a table grape producer and exporter in the Aconcagua Valley, pointed out the particular phenomenon caused by different climatic factors affecting table grape production in this particular valley. Most grapes produced in the valley were ready to be harvested from 10 days to two weeks before normal harvesting time this season. Additionally, the harvesting period was shortened from a normal period of three weeks to only ten days, which presented a new challenge to producers. Mr. Brown said that most varieties produced in Region V (Aconcagua) suffered the same problems. For example, in the case of Flames, this variety was ready to harvest ten to twelve days earlier than normal, and most of them did not reach the desired size (caliber), which can be attributed to the severe frost during spring and the higher than normal temperatures. In December, for over ten days the maximum temperature did not fall from the 32 to 33 degrees centigrade, even reaching 36 to 37 degrees some days. This matured grapes in a shorter period of time and the harvest had to be concentrated into fewer days, which is also not normal. Usually the table grape harvest can last two or three weeks because of the volume to be harvested was now reduced only to ten to twelve days. As a result of the tightened harvesting season a smaller harvest was obtained as some boxes could not be harvested.

Another early grape variety affected was Superior, which also had a slower growth; normally the size obtained is between 20 and 22 mm, this year the size was in the range of 19-20 mm. Thompson Seedless, Red Globe and Crimsons had a similar behavior. In general producers had to face new challenges with their table grape production with an earlier start, a reduced harvesting period and a smaller total output and not being able to fulfill the supply commitments made with importers in most markets.